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the evolution and transformation in thought that has been one of the greatest results from the work of the great naturalist. These three addresses have been brought together and privately printed, making a pretty 64-page pamphlet with the general title "Charles Darwin: Three Appreciations, by J. M. Macfarlane."

Here may be listed Dr. R. G. Eccles's "Parasitism and Natural Selection: A Medical Supplement to Darwin's Origin of Species," first published in the *Medical Record*, July 31, 1909, and now reprinted as a 34-page pamphlet. The author emphasizes the part taken by parasites in the evolution of organisms, not only in the present, but also in the remote past.

A NEW BOTANICAL HISTORY

PROOFS have been received of the first part of Dr. E. L. Greene's "Landmarks of Botanical History," now in the press and soon to be published in the "Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections." When completed the work will consist of three volumes, and judging from the pages we have examined it will be a most helpful and discriminating contribution to our knowledge of the development of the science. At the outset the author makes the rather startling statement that "What is here undertaken is not a history of botany." He has not planned to present "in chronological succession the long line of the contributors to the upbuilding of this science with an account of the best contributions each has made," but rather to touch here and there upon the work accomplished by botanists in the gradual development of botany from its earliest beginnings. In the phrase of to-day, he proposes "to touch the high points" in the history of botany.

Every botanist will await the publication of this book with great interest, for no man is better prepared by nature and education for this task than Dr. Greene. An early notice of the first completed volume will appear in these columns.

CHARLES E. BESSEY

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AN INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

SOME recent developments in the relation of producers and manufacturers of cotton in the United States certainly call for a scientific study of the question with a view to devising some plans by which the elements entering into the cotton industry shall the more clearly understand the situation and be better understood by other factors of the industry.

At a recent meeting of the Georgia Industrial Association in Atlanta, Ga., the cotton mill owners of the state passed the following resolutions:

Resolved by the Georgia Industrial Association that, owing to the disparity between the cost price of cotton goods and yarns, based upon the present price of cotton, and the market price thereof, that it is necessary for the mills of this association, as a matter of self-protection, to inaugurate and enforce the curtailment of not less than 25 per cent. of their running time.

Resolved, further, that each mill of this association is instructed to make such curtailment not later than November 1, 1909, and continuing until January 1, 1910, and thereafter until the selling price of the finished product approximates its cost.

We further recommend that all the mills of this association decline all offers and withdraw all quotations upon finished product at a less price than the cost thereof, based upon the price of cotton at the time of sale.

It is a well-known fact that the cotton raisers of the south have long been trying to organize themselves, so that they would be able to have something to say about the price of cotton, and in view of the present high prices, they think that they have cause to rejoice at their efforts, and to believe that they have scored a victory. While the writer believes that the law of supply and demand will eventually regulate, it must be conceded that this misunderstanding is calculated to lead to serious results, if the cotton industry of the south and country fails to grasp its meaning.

The National Farmers' Union of America in answer to the above resolutions recently issued a statement through the public press that "curtailment of output by cotton mills

on account of high-priced cotton is a humorous bluff." This view is of course taken up by the farmer, who is not in a position to see the seriousness of the situation.

The American Cotton Manufacturers' Association issues in the *Textile Manufacturer* the following reply to President Barrett, of the Farmers' Union:

The recent utterance of President Barrett, of the Farmers' Union, and the editorials of the *Cotton Journal* are in bad taste, and show a surprising lack of grasp of the situation.

The cotton manufacturers of the south are interested in the development and welfare of the south and are big and broad enough to realize that a fair price for cotton means prosperity for this section.

The farmers are in the midst of prosperity while the mills are in distress. Both are linked together in the general prosperity of the south and the farmer should show his willingness to cooperate.

This relation between the two great factors of the cotton industry of the south grows a little more critical with each report that comes from either side without any possible means for either side to know the status—the real status—of the other. The writer is inclined to believe that such a matter is of national importance and should call for the best thought of the country. If these two great organizations, the producers, on the one hand, and manufacturers, on the other, could be made to more clearly understand the other by a National Industrial Commission or Arbitration Board, the country would be the gainer far out of proportion to the cost of maintaining the commission.

The mills concede that the price of cotton is not too high, yet they can not fail to see that such action as they have taken actually cost the farmers of the country right about \$450,000 the tenth day after the meeting of the Industrial Association. Possibly the farmers should help bear the burden, but the real issue is this—the mills should not have the privilege of passing judgment on the matter for all concerned, which it virtually amounts to, since their action seems to vitally affect the price of cotton. The point uppermost in the mind of the writer is that all

should help bear the burden, but let the matter be submitted to an arbitration commission, whose duty it shall be to investigate the cost of raising cotton, and the cost of manufacturing, and such report as they make annually, or oftener, be distributed among all people. The commission need not confine its work to any particular line of industry, but should turn its attention to all matters of national importance about which there is likely to arise a misunderstanding. This commission could well be considered a common resort for justice in proportion to its authority and influence.

When we contemplate the fact that Great Britain is developing cotton growing in all her colonies, and will sooner or later be in position to supply her own mills with the raw material, the matter assumes a new interest. A letter comes by this mail from the director of agriculture, Zomba, Nyasaland, British East Africa, that the cotton crop will be increased over 29 per cent. this year over last year's crop. The general outlook for the British government is very bright, and surely there is no time for delay in adjusting our own affairs to the best interests of the nation. England is in doubt as to the meaning of the inconsistency of the present situation in America, as shown above, since short crop means high price for raw material, and yet an overplus of manufactured articles seems to be the explanation of the low price of finished material. "It is difficult to get at the truth from contradictory statements of this kind," comes from an English review.

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SPECIAL ARTICLES

RESTING SPORES OF THE POTATO FUNGUS (PHYTOPHTHORA INFESTANS)

THE potato fungus, *Phytophthora infestans*, has been carried in pure culture in the botanical laboratory of the University of Vermont continuously since 1904. Various natural and artificial media have been tried in the hope of securing additional information as to the ability of the fungus to produce